



Transportation  
Security  
Administration

April 14, 2004

Mr. Dennis A. McPhee  
Department of Licensing  
Funeral and Cemetery Office  
P.O. Box 9012  
Olympia, WA 98507

Dear Mr. McPhee:

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is responsible for passenger and baggage security screening at all airports that provide commercial airline service. There have been many changes in the way passenger security screening is accomplished since the devastating events of September 11, 2001. One of these changes includes the screening of crematory containers. Our procedures preclude us from allowing opaque (lead, crystal, heavy metal based) items into the sterile area of an airport. The sterile area is defined as the area beyond the security screening checkpoint. As a result of this change we are reaching out to you in an effort to provide the best customer service to your customers and ours.

Please note the following requirements:

CREMATORY CONTAINERS

*Crematory containers must be x-ray screened. Under no circumstances should a TSA screener open a crematory container.*

*If the x-ray image is not opaque (wood, plastic, non-lead lined ceramic) the x-ray operator must study the x-ray image in search of prohibited items.*

*If the x-ray image is opaque, the crematory container is **not** permitted into the sterile area.*

We recommend your customers, who intend to travel with cremated remains, purchase non-opaque crematory containers. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Tracy McConkey*

Tracy McConkey  
Stakeholder Manager  
Seattle Tacoma International Airport